

Application No.: 10/701085

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box(1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: August 4, 2004

Signature: (Carol Marstaller)

Docket No.: 45003-00012USP1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Michael B. Dabney et al.

Application No.: 10/701085

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: November 4, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: CONSUMER FEEDBACK IN CONTENT

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

RULE 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) DECLARATION OF STEVEN R. GREENFIELD

MS Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, STEVEN R. GREENFIELD, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. My name is Steven R. Greenfield. I am over the age of twenty-one (21) and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and each of them is true and correct.
- 2. I am a shareholder with the law firm of Jenkens & Gilchrist, P.C. in Dallas, Texas. I represent The Belo Company, the Assignee of the above-referenced patent application, Serial No. 10/701,085.
- 3. On November 4, 2003, the above referenced patent application, Serial No. 10/701,085 was filed as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/415,560, now U.S. Patent No. 6,643,663, issued November 4, 2003.
- 4. On February 6, 2004, a Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application, dated February 2, 2004, was received by Jenkens & Gilchrist.
- 5. On July 19, 2004, I sent each named inventor, James C. Jennings IV, Christopher J. Feola, Michael Blane Dabney, David Thomas Hill, Lourdes Maria Trujillo, Melda Marie Washington and Ronald Gene Lee, a copy of the patent application serial no. 10/701,085 and an

Application No.: 10/701085 Docket No.: 45003-00012USP1

accompanying Declaration and Power of Attorney via Express Mail. A true and correct copy of the patent application and accompanying documents is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. In the accompanying letter to each named inventor, I requested that each inventor carefully review the patent application and to sign the Declaration. I further stated that if I do not receive the signed Declaration back by July 26, 2004, I will assume that the inventor is refusing to sign. Each Express Mail package contained a prepaid and return addressed Priority Mail envelope.

- 6. On July 19 and 20, 2004 my secretary, Carol Marstaller, called each inventor and left messages explaining the Express Mail packages discussed in paragraph 5 above.
- 7. On July 23, 2004, inventor, Melda M. Washington, contacted my office and requested that a copy of the application and the Declaration be e-mailed to her at melda@imc2.com. Inventor, Melda M. Washington, also indicated that she would not sign the documents if inventor, David T. Hill, was not going to sign the documents. Inventor, Melda M. Washington indicated she was going to talk to David T. Hill and some of the other named inventors.
- 8. On July 23, 2004, I received a signed Declaration from inventor, James C. Jennings IV.
- 9. On July 25, 2004, the Express Mail package sent to inventor, Lourdes M. Trujillo (as discussed in paragraph 5 above) was returned to me at Jenkens & Gilchrist marked unclaimed.
- 10. On August 2, 2004, my secretary attempted to contact each named inventor by telephone again.
- 11. On August 2, 2004, Inventor David T. Hill telephoned me and stated that he refused to sign the Declaration.
- 12. Thus, I must declare that after diligent effort, the six (6) non-signing inventors could not be found or reached or are refusing to join in the application and execute the application Declaration papers.
 - 13. The last known address of each non-signing joint inventor is as follows:
 - a. Christopher J. Feola, 5233 Shadow Glen Drive, Grapevine, Texas 76051
 - b. Michael Blane Dabney, 757 N. Van Buren Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75208
 - c. David Thomas Hill, 5349 Cattlebaron Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108
 - d. Lourdes Maria Trujillo, 619 Laura Lane, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Ì

Application No.: 10/701085 Docket No.: 45003-00012USP1

e. Melda Marie Washington, 1900 Elm Street, Apt. #v 801, Dallas, Texas 75201

- f. Ronald Gene Lee, 557 Greenwood Circle, Hurst, Texas 76053
- 14. As of the date of this Declaration, I have not received any further communication from the non-signing joint inventors: Christopher J. Feola, Michael Blane Dabney, David Thomas Hill, Lourdes Maria Trujillo, Melda Marie Washington and Ronald Gene Lee.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and such false statements may jepardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

This Declaration is executed on this 4th day of August, 20/14

Registration No.: 38,166

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL

CORPORATION

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200

Dallas, Texas 75202

(214) 855-4500

Attorneys For Applicant



1445 Ross Avenue **SUITE 3200** DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

(214) 855-4500 FACSIMILE (214) 855-4300

www.jenkens.com

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (312) 425-3900 HOUSTON, TEXAS (713) 951-3300 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA (310) 820-8800 NEW YORK, NEW YORK (212) 704-6000 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA (626) 578-7400 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

(210) 246-5000 WASHINGTON, D.C.

(202) 326-1500

Steven R. Greenfield (214) 855-4789 sgreenfield@jenkens.com

July 19, 2004

Mr. James Jennings 9117 Vinewood Dallas, Texas 75228

Mr. Christopher J. Feola 5233 Shadow Glen Drive Grapevine, Texas 76051

VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Re:

U.S. Patent entitled: Method and System for Operating a Content Management

System; Patent No. 6,643,663; and

U.S. Patent Application entitled: Consumer Feedback in Content Management

Systems; filed November 4, 2003

Our Ref. No. 45003-00012USPT and 00001USP1

Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that you should be a listed inventor on the above-indicated U.S. patent titled: "Method and System for Operating a Content Management System" which you participated in while employed at Belo Interactive. Also, we note that a newly filed patent application "Consumer Feedback in Content Management systems", that you are named inventors on, requires your signature declaring that you are, in fact, an inventor.

We are currently gathering all the documents necessary for filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to secure your names as inventors on the above patent and patent application as required by U.S. Patent Law.

Please sign the enclosed Verified Statement of Facts and return them to me as soon as possible in the enclosed addressed and postage paid envelope.

Please sign the enclosed Verified Statement of Facts stating that you understand and agree that you are a co-inventor in the "Method and System for Operating Content Management System" patent.





July 19, 2003 Page 2

SRG/cam Enclosure

2. Please sign the enclosed Declaration stating that you are one of the inventors of the "Consumer Feedback in Content Management Systems" patent application.

Enclosed also for your review are the issued patent and a copy of the filed patent application.

If we do not receive the signed documents back by July 26, 2004, we will assume you are refusing to sign.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Steven R. Greenfield



1445 ROSS AVENUE SUITE 3200 DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

(214) 855-4500 FACSIMILE (214) 855-4300

www.jenkens.com

COPY

AUSTIN, TEXAS (512) 499-3800

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (312) 425-3900

HOUSTON, TEXAS (713) 951-3300

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA (310) 820-8800

New York, New York (212) 704-6000

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA (626) 578-7400

San Antonio, Texas (210) 246-5000

WASHINGTON, D.C. (202) 326-1500

July 19, 2004

VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Steven R. Greenfield

(214) 855-4789

sgreenfield@jenkens.com

Mr. Michael Blane Dabney 757 N. Van Buren Avenue Dallas, TX 75208

Mr. David T. Hill 5349 Cattlebaron Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108

Ms. Lourdes M. Trujillo 619 Laura Lane Grand Prairie, TX 75052 Ms. Melda M. Washington 1900 Elm Street, Apt #v 801 Dallas, TX 75201

Mr. Ronald G. Lee 557 Greenwood Circle Hurst, TX 76053

Re:

U.S. Patent entitled: Method and System for Operating a Content Management System; Patent No. 6,643,663; Issued: November 4, 2003
Our Ref. No. 45003-00012USPT

U.S. Patent Application entitled: Consumer Feedback in Content Management Systems; Application No. 10/701,085; filed November 4, 2003
Our Ref. No. 45003-00012USP1

Ladies and Gentlemen

You are a listed inventor for the patent titled: "Method and System for Operating a Content Management System" which you worked on while employed by Belo Interactive. It has come to our attention that two individuals, who should have been listed as inventors, were inadvertently left off of the original patent application. At this time we are adding Christopher J. Feola and James C. Jennings, IV as inventors to the issued patent as required under U.S. Patent Law.



Jenkens & Gilchrist

July 19, 2004 Page 2

We have also filed an additional patent application (a copy of which is enclosed) of which you are an inventor.

- 1. Please sign the first enclosed Verified Statement of Facts stating that you understand and agree that Christopher Feola and James Jennings are co-inventors of the above-indicated U.S. Patent.
- 2. After carefully reviewing the patent application, please sign the enclosed Declaration stating that you are a co-inventor of the patent application (a copy of which is enclosed).

Please place the signed documents in the enclosed self-addressed envelope and mail them to me as soon as possible. If we do not receive the signed document back by July 26, 2004, we will assume you are refusing to sign.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

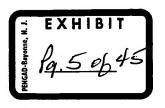
AP

teven R. Greenfield

Respectfully,

SRG/cam Enclosure





PATENT APPLICATION DOCKET NO.: 45003-00012USP1

RULES 63 AND 67 (37 C.F.R. 1.63 and 1.67) DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR UTILITY/DESIGN/CIP/PCT NATIONAL APPLICATIONS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent has been granted on the invention entitled: **CONSUMER FEEDBACK IN CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**, the specification of which: (mark only one)

	(a)	is attached hereto.
<u>X</u>	(b)	was filed November 4, 2003 as Application Serial No 10/701,085 and was amended on
	()	
	(c)	was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/
		on and was amended
		on (if applicable).
	(d)	was filed on as Application Serial No.
		and was issued a Notice of Allowance
		on
	(e)	was filed on and bearing attorney docket
		number

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above or as allowed as indicated above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56. If this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability of the application as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date

of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this CIP application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which my priority is claimed or, (2) if no priority is claimed, before the filing date of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Month/Day/Y	Date first	<u>Date</u>	Priority
		ear Filed	laid-open or	patented or	<u>Claimed</u>
		<u>—</u> —	Published	Granted	Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120/365 of any United States application(s) listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below:

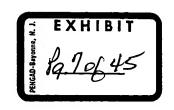
PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATIONS

Application No. (Series code/serial no.)	Month/Day/Year Filed	Status (pending, abandoned, patented)	
09/415.560	October 8, 1999	Patented	

I hereby appoint:

Steven R. Greenfield, Reg. No. 38,166 Stanley R. Moore, Reg. No. 26,958 Andre M. Szuwalski, Reg. No. 35,701

all of the firm of JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C., 3200 Fountain Place, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2799, as my attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, provisionals thereof, continuations, continuations-in-part, divisionals, appeals, reissues, substitutions, and extensions thereof and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to appoint any individuals under an associate power of attorney and to file and prosecute any international patent application filed thereon before any international authorities, and I hereby authorize them to act and rely directly with the communicate from and instructions person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization who/which first sent this case to them and



by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct them in writing to the contrary.

Please address all correspondence and direct all telephone calls to:

Steven R. Greenfield Jenkens & Gilchrist, P.C. 3200 Fountain Place 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75202-2799 214/855-4789 214/855-4300 (fax)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAMED INVENTOR(S)

LAND	TED INVENTOR(S)		1
	MICHAEL BLANE DABNEY		
	Full Name		
1		Inventor's Signature	Date
	757 N. Van Buren Avenue	•	
	Dallas, Texas 75208	Dallas, Texas 75208 USA	
	Residence (city, state, country)	Citizenship	
	757 N. Van Buren Avenue		
	Dallas, Texas 75208		ļ
	Post Office Address (include zip code	e)	
	DAVID THOMAS HILL		
	Full Name		
2		Inventor's Signature	Date
	5349 Cattlebaron Dr.		
	Fort Worth, TX 76108 USA		
	Residence (city, state, country)	Citizenship	
	6349 Cattlebaron Dr.		
	Fort Worth, TX 76108		
	Post Office Address (include zip code	e)	

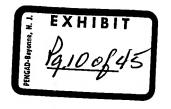


	LOURDES MARIA TRUJILLO			
	Full Name			
3	ruii Name	Inventor's Signature	Date	
13	619 Laura Lane	Hivehol's Signature	Build	
		USA		
	Grand Prairie, TX 75052		Citizenship	
<u> </u>	Residence (city, state, country)	Citizens	, mip	
	619 Laura Lane			
	Grand Prairie, TX 75052			
	Post Office Address (include zip code			
٠.	MELDA MARIE WASHINGTON	Y		
١.	Full Name	Tours and a City and the company	Date	
4		Inventor's Signature	Date	
	1900 Elm Street, Apt. # v801	X IO A		
	Dallas, Texas 75201 USA			
	Residence (city, state, country) Citizenship			
	1900 Elm Street, Apt.# v801			
	Dallas, Texas 75201			
	Post Office Address (include zip code	3)	<u>, </u>	
	RONALD GENE LEE			
	Full Name			
5		Inventor's Signature	Date	
	557 Greenwood Circle		,	
	Hurst, TX 76053		USA	
	Residence (city, state, country) Citizenship			
	557 Greenwood Circle	• ***		
	Hurst, TX 76053			
	Post Office Address (include zip code			



	JAMES C. JENNINGS, IV.			
	Full Name			
	run name	Toursetoule Clampatoure	Date	
6		Inventor's Signature	Date	
	9117 Vinewood			
	Dallas, Texas 75228	USA		
	Residence (city, state, country)	Citizenship		
	9117 Vinewood			
	Dallas, Texas 75228			
	Post Office Address (include zip code	e)		
	CHRISTOPHER J. FEOLA			
	Full Name			
7		Inventor's Signature	Date	
	5233 Shadow Glen Drive			
	Grapevine, Texas 76051	USA		
	Residence (city, state, country)	Citizens	Citizenship	
	5233 Shadow Glen Drive			
	Grapevine, Texas 76051			
	Post Office Address (include zip code	e)		





PATENT 45003-00012USP1

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

for

CONSUMER FEEDBACK IN CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

by

JAMES JENNINGS CHRISTOPHER FEOLA

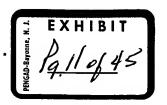
EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL749029661US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: November 4, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature:____

Marcy Overefeet



CONSUMER FEEDBACK IN CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[01] This application for patent is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/415,560, entitled "A Method and System for Operating a Content Management System," filed October 8, 1999, and incorporated herein by reference.

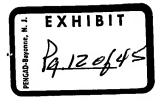
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[02] The present invention relates to electronic content management systems. In particular, the present invention relates to a system and method for managing consumer feedback in such electronic content management systems.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- [03] Electronic content management systems are used to manage the production and publication of, for example, newspapers, magazines, on-line journals, and other types of publications. The content in these publications may include, for example, news stories, political commentaries, product reviews, and similar items of interests. The electronic content management system allows the content to be received, edited, reviewed, and approved by appropriate personnel prior to dissemination. The content may then be released for publication, either on-line or via a more traditional medium. An example of such an electronic content management system may be found in U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/415,560, referenced above.
- [04] In traditional electronic content management systems, the consumer feedback component (to the extent there is one) is isolated and separate from the production and publishing components of the system. As a result, there is often a disconnect between what the consumer would like to see or cares about and the content that is published. For example, consumer feedback regarding the articles in the "Sports" section of an on-line publication may never be seen (or at least not in a timely manner) by the managing editor of that section. The disconnect is usually not critical for non-information currency based industries because consumer feedback is not integral to the day-to-day sales or

PATENT 45003-00012USP1



distribution of the product. Instead, it simply serves to shape the long term, future development and marketing strategies for the product. For industries that are based on information currency, however, the valuable life of the content, and hence the time it can be used to capture the consumer's attention, is very brief. Consumer feedback, therefore, is an integral part of the daily sales and distribution of the content in these industries.

[05] Moreover, traditional electronic content management systems are designed under the premise that consumer response may be gauged using standard mass audience analysis techniques. These techniques rely on anonymous surveys and focus groups composed of randomly selected consumers who are statistically representative of the whole. While such techniques are generally applicable for homogeneous or relatively homogeneous audiences, they do not account for the extraordinary impact that certain statistical outliers often have on consumer consumption. For example, it has been found that consumption patterns in information currency based industries are often driven by a very small group (5-10%) of consumers who consume well over 50% of the product. These consumers are often the ones who take the time and effort to provide feedback. Standard mass audience analysis techniques, however, tend to dilute the impact of these consumers by averaging their consumption pattern with the consumption pattern of the rest (90-95%) of the consumers.

[06] Accordingly, what is needed is an electronic content management system that is capable of closing the disconnect between consumer feedback and the product that is published. In addition, what is needed is an electronic content management system that is capable of tracking the consumption patterns of the consumers on an individual basis.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[07] The present invention is directed to a method and system for managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system. The method and system of the invention includes a mechanism for consumers to provide feedback regarding the content that is published. The feedback is routed to the appropriate personnel responsible for publishing the content. In this way, the disconnect between what the consumer would like to see or cares about and the content that is published is closed. In addition, the consumer feedback triggers monitoring of the consumer's content accessing activity,

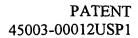


which allows the consumer's consumption pattern to be tracked on an individual basis. This information may then be used to better define the content that gets published in order to match the consumer's interests.

[08] In general, in one aspect, the invention is directed to a method of managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system. The method comprises the steps of receiving feedback from a consumer regarding published content, storing the feedback, and sending a response message to the consumer in response to the feedback. The method further comprises determining whether escalation of the feedback is needed, and if so, routing the feedback to a personnel responsible for the published content in order to close a loop between the personnel responsible for the published content and the consumer.

[09] In general, in another aspect, the invention is directed to a user interface for managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system. The user interface comprises a feedback form including a plurality of fields for capturing personal information about a consumer along with a feedback provided by the consumer regarding published content, and a feedback processing form including a plurality of fields for specifying a feedback type of the feedback, generating a response message to the feedback, and identifying a personnel responsible for the published content. The feedback processing form is capable of causing the response message to be sent to the consumer and the feedback to be forwarded to the personnel responsible for the published content.

[10] In general, in yet another aspect, the invention is directed to a method of managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system. The method comprises the steps of receiving feedback from a consumer regarding published content, parsing the consumer personal information from the feedback, and storing the consumer personal information and the feedback in the electronic content management system. The method further comprises monitoring all content accessing activity of the consumer using the consumer personal information in order to track a consumption pattern of the consumer, sending a response message to the consumer in response to the feedback, and determining whether escalation of the feedback is needed. If escalation is needed, the



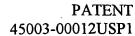


feedback is routed to a personnel responsible for the published content in order to close a loop between the personnel responsible for the published content and the consumer.

[11] The above summary of the present invention is not intended to represent each embodiment, or every aspect, of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [12] The foregoing and other advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings, wherein:
- [13] Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary consumer feedback procedure according to embodiments of the invention;
- [14] Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary escalation procedure according to embodiments of the invention;
- [15] Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary consumer response procedure according to embodiments of the invention;
- [16] Figure 4 illustrates an exemplary consumer feedback form according to embodiments of the invention;
- [17] Figure 5 illustrates an exemplary receipt confirmation form according to embodiments of the invention;
- [18] Figure 6 illustrates an exemplary open tickets form according to embodiments of the invention;
- [19] Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary open cases form according to embodiments of the invention;
- [20] Figures 8A-8E illustrate an exemplary ticket processing form for handling open tickets according to embodiments of the invention;
- [21] Figure 9 illustrates an exemplary email that may be sent in response to consumer feedback according to embodiments of the invention;
- [22] Figure 10 illustrates an exemplary processing form for handling subsequent consumer feedback according to embodiments of the invention;
- [23] Figure 11 illustrates an exemplary consumer feedback form for telephone based consumer feedback according to embodiments of the invention; and





[24] Figures 12A-12B illustrate exemplary ticket search forms according to embodiments of the invention.

[25] While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail herein. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not intended to be limited to the particular forms disclosed. Rather, the invention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

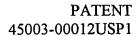
[26] Following is a detailed description of illustrative embodiments of the invention with reference to the drawings wherein the same reference labels are used for the same or similar elements.

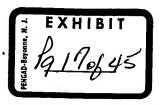
[27] As mentioned above, embodiments of the invention provide a centralized consumer feedback procedure in an electronic content management system. The consumer feedback procedure of the invention is designed to receive, store, and route all consumer feedback to the appropriate personnel as needed for resolution. Such a formalized procedure closes the disconnect between what the consumer would like to see or cares about and the content that is published. The procedure also ensures that the consumption patterns of all consumers, or at least the ones who provide feedback, are tracked and analyzed on a consumer-by-consumer basis so that the impact of statistical outliers is not diluted.

[28] For purposes of this description, it will be assumed that the content managed by the electronic content management system (as described in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/415,560) is published on one or more websites (e.g., DallasNews.com, DentonRC.com, etc.) which the consumer can access using any commercially available web browser. Further, the consumer is typically a subscriber to the content or has otherwise created an account with the content providers that requires the consumer to provide at least his first and last name and email address. The invention is equally applicable, however, to content that is published via more traditional mediums as well.



- [29] Referring now to Figure 1, a centralized consumer feedback procedure 100 according to embodiments of the invention is shown. The consumer feedback procedure 100 includes a feedback intake step for receiving the consumer feedback. In some embodiments, the feedback intake step includes providing an on-line form at step 102a that the consumer can complete to provide feedback. The on-line form may be any suitable form such as a webform that the consumer can fill in. Preferably, each webpage or at least each website managed by the electronic content management includes such an on-line form. The feedback intake step may also include providing a form at step 102b that a customer service representative can use to field consumer feedback provided via telephone. In most embodiments, the forms provided are similar or identical to each other in order to standardize the information in the forms. Other feedback mechanisms may also be used without departing from the scope of the invention, such as a mail-in or fax-in form that the consumer may fill out and send in.
- [30] Once a feedback form is received from the consumer, it is subsequently provided to a help center at step 104. The help center, which may be a manual and/or a computerized help center, parses the data from all received forms according to one or more predefined fields, such as the consumer name, email address, type of feedback, and the like. The parsed data is thereafter extracted from the forms and provided at step 106 to a database of the electronic content management system, where the data is stored. The database, which may be any suitable database such as an Oracle® database, also stores the website information for the website where the form was originated.
- [31] A ticket is generated at step 108 for each consumer feedback received based on the data stored in the database. Generation of the ticket triggers logging and monitoring by the electronic content management system of all subsequent content accessing activity by the consumer who provided the feedback using an identifier such as the consumer's email address. This allows the consumption pattern of the consumer to be tracked and analyzed on a consumer-by-consumer basis and thereby, prevents dilution of the consumption pattern of important statistical outliers. The ticket itself also includes a unique tracking number which allows the issue raised by the consumer in the feedback to be tracked and analyzed.





- [32] In some embodiments, the ticket is generated in a webform that may then be sent as an alert to a customer service representative. An automatically generated confirmation message is also emailed to the consumer at step 110 to let the consumer know that his feedback has been received and will be processed. At step 112, the customer service representative attempts to address any issues raised by the consumer in the feedback by sending the consumer an appropriate email response. The response typically includes a request that the consumer send a reply back to the customer service representative if the issue raised has been addressed to consumer's satisfaction.
- [33] The customer service representative thereafter makes a determination at step 114 whether to close the ticket or to keep the ticket open. If the customer service representative feels that the issue is of a nature such that no further action is needed, then the ticket is closed at step 116. Issues that can be resolved in this manner include, for example, simple technical questions or questions that have a definite answer. On the other hand, if the customer service representative feels that the issue merits further action, then the ticket is kept opened and escalated at step 118 to the appropriate personnel for resolution. Issues that need to be escalated include, for example, questions relating to the content of a website.
- [34] Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary escalation procedure 118 according to embodiments of the invention. The escalation procedure 118 begins at step 200, where the customer service representative has decided that escalation is warranted. The customer service representative then determines at step 202, based on the nature of the issue raised, which corporate entity or business unit is best suited to see and/or respond to the feedback. For example, the customer service representative may escalate the ticket to the originating website at step 204. The ticket then is routed to the appropriate department or group within the website based on the type or category of feedback specified in the feedback form. For example, if the ticket contains feedback regarding articles in the "Sports" section, then it will be routed to the managing editor of that section. Such an arrangement closes the loop between what the consumer would like to see or cares about and the content that gets published.

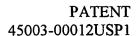


- [35] The customer service representative may also escalate the ticket to a corporate help desk (e.g., BeloInteractive.com) at step 206 for issues that concern multiple corporate entities.
- [36] It is also possible to send the ticket to some other corporate entity besides the examples mentioned above, or to several corporate entities simultaneously instead of just one. Once the issue has been addressed by the corporate entity, a communication is sent to the customer service representative summarizing the nature of the resolution at step 208, and the escalation procedure is concluded. The customer service representative thereafter closes the ticket at step 116 (see Figure 1).
- [37] In some embodiments, information regarding the escalation, the resulting resolution, as well as the ticket closure can all be optionally logged to the database, as shown by the dashed lines in Figures 1 and 2.
- [38] In some embodiments, the consumer feedback procedure 100 of the invention also includes an administrative tool for assigning tickets that have been opened to customer service representatives. A workflow 210 for such an administrative tool is shown in Figure 2. As can be seen, assignment of the of the tickets begins at step 212, where the opened tickets are retrieved from the database of the electronic content management system. An assignment form allows a customer service supervisor to view the tickets and to determine the best customer service representative to handle a particular ticket at step 214. The tickets are then assigned to the appropriate customer service representatives at steps 216a-c. If any customer service representative determines that a ticket warrants escalation, then he may escalate the ticket using the escalation procedure 118 described above.
- [39] The workflow 210 of the administrative tool also includes a search option at step 218, which allows the customer service supervisor or any customer service representative to search the database for open or closed tickets based on one or more search criteria. The results of the search are presented at step 220. If any of the tickets returned by the search requires escalation, then that ticket may be escalated using the escalation procedure 118.
- [40] Referring now to Figure 3, a procedure 300 for processing a subsequent correspondence received from the consumer is shown. As mentioned above, the



customer service representative's response to the consumer at step 112 (see Figure 1) asks the consumer to reply with a follow-up message if the issue raised has been resolved to the consumer's satisfaction. The consumer may send an email or he may also use the feedback form provided at steps 102a and 102b to follow-up on the issue. In either case, the procedure 300 begins by receiving the follow-up correspondence at step 302. The correspondence is stored in the database at step 304, and a webform alert is sent to the customer service representative at step 306. The webform alert preferably includes some type of indicator that the correspondence is a follow-up to feedback that the consumer previously provided, such as a "Re:" in the subject line. Upon receiving the webform alert with the follow-up indicator, the customer service representative reviews the consumer's account to determine what further action, if any, is needed at step 308. For example, if the ticket for the feedback has already been closed, the customer service representative may decide to re-open the ticket based on the follow-up correspondence. The procedures described with respect to Figures 1 and 2 above may then be used to provide a follow-up response to the consumer.

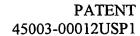
- [41] Thus far, the invention has been described generally in terms of its primary functional components. Following now is a more detailed description of an exemplary implementation of a user interface for the invention with respect to Figures 4-12. It should be noted that unless otherwise indicated, the design and layout of the various features shown in the figures, including the size, shape, color (or lack thereof), location, and arrangement of the various fields, checkboxes, text boxes, drop-down menus, graphics, and other information, are provided for illustrative purposes only, and the invention is not to be limited to any particular combination of the above.
- [42] Figure 4 illustrates an exemplary user interface for a consumer feedback form 400 that may be used by the consumer to provide feedback (step 102a in Figure 1). As can be seen, the consumer feedback form 400 includes several personal information fields 402 in which the consumer may enter his personal information, such as his first and last name and his email address. This information is typically required information, but one or more items may be made optional if desired. Also included is a feedback type indicator 404 that allows the consumer to specify the type of feedback, for example, a "question," "complaint," or "comment." A drop-down menu 406 allows the consumer to specify to





what particular section (e.g., advertising, local news, etc.) his correspondence is related. Finally, a text area 408 allows the consumer to enter the text of his feedback. In the example shown, the consumer's feedback is that the website needs more cello stories.

- [43] Figure 5 illustrates an exemplary implementation of an automatic confirmation message 500 that may be sent to the consumer upon receipt of a feedback form (step 110 in Figure 1). The confirmation message 500 includes a copy 502 of the feedback provided by the consumer, as well as a short confirmation 504 that the feedback has been received. Also included in the confirmation message 500 is the tracking number 508 assigned to the ticket, typically provided in the subject line. Preferably, the confirmation message 500 is automatically generated using the auto-reply feature of commercially available email clients such as Microsoft Outlook.
- [44] Figure 6 illustrates an exemplary user interface for an open tickets form 600 according to embodiments of the invention. The open tickets form 600 includes a hyperlink list 602, by site, of all tickets from websites with open tickets that have been assigned to a particular customer service representative. Thus, when the customer service representative logs into the electronic content management system, he will be able to see the tickets that have been assigned to him. In the example shown, there are five sites with open tickets for a total of 24 open tickets.
- [45] Selecting (e.g., by clicking) one of the sites listed takes the customer service representative to an exemplary open cases form 700, shown in Figure 7. The open cases form 700 provides a hyperlink list 702, by section or department, of the tickets that are open for that site. In the example shown, the site includes four open tickets. Note that one of the tickets, the one for the "News Content" section, has two consumer feedback items.
- [46] Figures 8A-8E illustrate an exemplary user interface for a ticket processing form 800 according to embodiments of the invention. The ticket processing form 800 appears when the customer service representative selects (e.g. by clicking) one of the open cases shown in Figure 7. In the example shown, the customer service representative has selected the first case under the "News Content" section. The ticket processing form 800 retrieves and displays all the relevant data 802 associated with that ticket, including the tracking number, the referring site, the email address of the consumer, and the first and



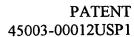


last name of the consumer. Also displayed are the section of the site to which the feedback relates, the type of feedback, and some information about the consumer's system. A text area 804 displays the text of the consumer's feedback.

[47] From this form, the customer service representative may modify the various properties of the ticket as he deems appropriate. For example, the customer service representative may change the feedback type field 806 (see Figure 8B) from a "question" to a "comment." An update button 808 allows the customer service representative to save the changes made to the ticket without sending the correspondence.

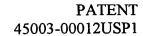
[48] The response portion of the ticket processing form 800 can be seen in Figure 8C, where the header and footer fields 810 and 814 are pre-populated with the consumer's name and the customer service representative's name, respectively. A body portion 812 is provided in which a message may be inserted to respond to the issue raised by the consumer. Also present are a blind copy list 816 for blind copying people who may be interested in the response, but from whom no action is required to resolve the issue, as well as an escalation copy list 818 for copying people from whom action may be required. A view escalation button 820 allows the customer service representative to view and edit the escalation copy list without sending the correspondence.

[49] The message that is inserted in the body portion 812 may be generated from scratch by the customer service representative, or it may be copied from one or more predefined responses that have been pre-developed to save time, or both. The predefined responses may be retrieved by selecting one of the sections or categories from the category list 822. Doing so brings up a list 824 of response templates for predefined responses that are associated with the selected category. For example, referring to Figure 8D, selecting the "ALL News Content" category retrieves a list 826 of three templates for predefined responses that relate to that category. Control buttons 826 allow the customer service representative to append, prepend, or replace one or more of the predefined responses in the body portion 812. If the customer service representative desires a different set of predefined responses, a change category button 828 allows the customer service representative to choose a different category and associated set of predefined responses.





- [50] In some embodiments, a spellcheck button 830 allows the customer service representative to spellcheck the message inserted in the body portion 812.
- [51] Once the customer service representative has completed filling in the body portion 812, he should decide whether the response message adequately resolves the issue raised by the consumer, or if further action is required. If he deems the response message to be adequate, then the customer service representative may decide to close the ticket by making the appropriate selection from the ticket status indicator 832. Otherwise, the customer service representative may make the appropriate selection to keep the ticket open. A save and escalation button 834 allows the customer service representative to save the changes and to escalate the ticket without sending the response to the consumer. Alternatively, the customer service representative may send the response to everyone listed, including the consumer, by selecting a save and submit button 836.
- [52] Figure 9 illustrates an exemplary implementation of a consumer correspondence 900 that contains a response message 902 prepared by the customer service representative. The consumer correspondence 900 is sent to the consumer as well as to the people listed in the blind copy and escalation copy lists. The tracking number 904 is included in the subject line in order to identify the particular ticket to which the correspondence 900 is connected.
- [53] Figure 10 illustrates an exemplary user interface for a follow-up form 1000 for processing follow-up correspondence received from the consumer. The follow-up form 1000 is essentially similar to the ticket processing form 800 in that it includes much of the same information (e.g., text of consumer correspondence, consumer's email, consumer's personal information, etc.). In the follow-up form 1000, however, the subject line 1002 includes a "RE:" to indicate that this consumer correspondence is in reply to the response message sent previously by the customer service representative. Otherwise, the same steps described above with respect to Figures 8A-8E may be used to respond to the consumer's follow-up correspondence.
- [54] Figure 11 illustrates an exemplary user interface for a new ticket form 1100 that may be used to field consumer telephone calls (step 102b in Figure 1). The new ticket form 1100 may be implemented as a webform and includes a plurality of fields 1102 for





obtaining information about the consumer and the referring site. This information is essentially the same information that is obtained when the consumer fills out the consumer feedback form 400 (see Figure 4). Also present is a text area 1104 for inserting a text of the consumer's feedback.

[55] Figure 12A illustrates an exemplary user interface for the ticket search option of the consumer feedback procedure described with respect to Figure 2. As can be seen, a search ticket form 1200 includes a plurality of search fields 1202 that allows a customer service representative's to search for tickets that have been generated. A search fields 1202 included, for example, the ticket number, the first and last name of the consumer, and the email address of the consumer. Also present are fields for searching the referring site, a keyword field, a category or sections field, a date field, and a ticket status field.

[56] Pressing a search button 1204 causes the electronic content management system to conduct a search of its database for tickets matching the specified search criteria. Figure 12B illustrates an exemplary implementation of the search results form 1210. As can be seen, the search results form 1210 includes a hyperlink list of tickets that match the specified search criteria. The customer service representative may then select one of the hyperlinks to view a particular ticket.

[57] While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Each of these embodiments and obvious variations thereof is contemplated as falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system, comprising:

receiving feedback from a consumer regarding published content; storing said feedback;

sending a response message to said consumer in response to said feedback;

determining whether escalation of said feedback is needed; and

routing said feedback, if escalation is needed, to a personnel responsible for said published content in order to close a loop between said personnel responsible for said published content and said consumer.

- 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of routing said feedback includes forwarding said feedback to an originating website.
- 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of forwarding said feedback to an originating website includes forwarding said feedback to a particular section within said originating website.
- 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising routing said feedback to a corporate wide help desk.
- 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising monitoring a content accessing activity of said consumer upon receiving said feedback in order to track a consumption pattern of said consumer.
- 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said response message includes one or more predefined responses that are selected based on said feedback.



- 7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving a reply message from said consumer in reply to said response message, and repeating said steps of storing, sending, determining, and routing.
- 8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising opening a ticket including a tracking number for said ticket upon receiving said feedback, and closing said ticket after said feedback is routed to said personnel.
- 9. A user interface for managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system, comprising:
- a feedback form including a plurality of fields for capturing personal information about a consumer along with a feedback provided by said consumer regarding published content;
- a feedback processing form including a plurality of fields for specifying a feedback type of said feedback from said feedback form, generating a response message to said feedback, and identifying a personnel responsible for said published content, said feedback processing form capable of causing said response message to be sent to said consumer and said feedback to be forwarded to said personnel responsible for said published content.
- 10. The user interface according to claim 9, wherein said feedback processing form further includes a field for indicating a status of said feedback.
- 11. The user interface according to claim 9, wherein said feedback processing form further includes a plurality of response templates that may be used to generate said response message.
- 12. The user interface according to claim 9, further comprising an open tickets form for listing websites associated with said electronic content management system that have received feedback, and an open cases form for listing sections within said websites that have received feedback.



- 13. The user interface according to claim 9, further comprising a search form including a plurality of fields for searching said electronic content management system for received consumer feedback.
- 14. A method of managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system, comprising:

receiving feedback from a consumer regarding published content; parsing the consumer personal information from said feedback;

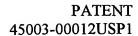
storing said consumer personal information and said feedback in said electronic content management system;

monitoring all content accessing activity of said consumer using said consumer personal information in order to track a consumption pattern of said consumer;

sending a response message to said consumer in response to said feedback; determining whether escalation of said feedback is needed; and

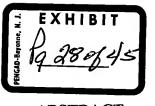
routing said feedback, if escalation is needed, to a personnel responsible for said published content in order to close a loop between said personnel responsible for said published content and said consumer.

- 15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising automatically sending a confirmation message to said consumer upon receiving of said feedback.
- 16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising alerting a customer service representative upon receiving said feedback.
- 17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising opening a ticket for said feedback, said ticket including a tracking number for tracking said feedback within said electronic content management system.





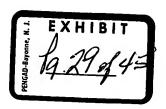
- 18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising closing said ticket after said feedback has been routed to said personnel responsible for said published content.
- 19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising searching said electronic content management system for said ticket based on one or more search criteria.
- 20. The method according to claim 14, further comprising logging said steps of repeating, storing, sending, determining, and routing in said electronic content management system.



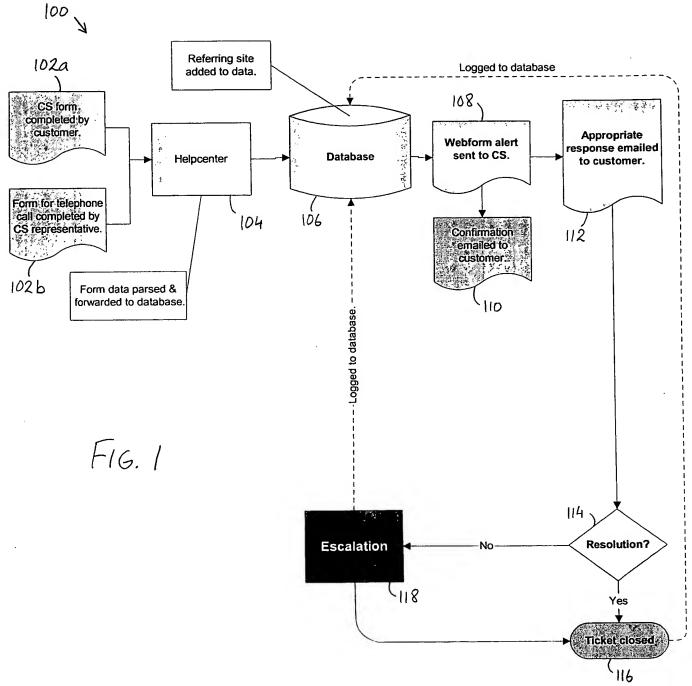
PATENT 45003-00012USP1

ABSTRACT

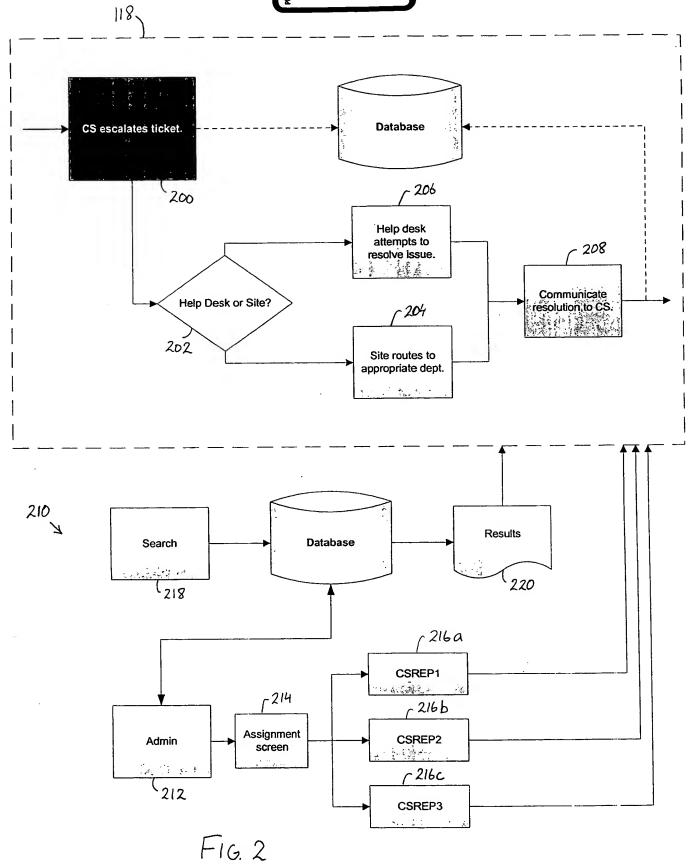
Method and system are disclosed for managing consumer feedback in an electronic content management system. The method and system of the invention includes a mechanism for consumers to provide feedback regarding the content that is published. The feedback is routed to the appropriate personnel responsible for publishing the content. In this way, the disconnect between what the consumer would like to see or cares about and the content that is published is closed. In addition, the consumer feedback triggers monitoring of the consumers content accessing activity, which allows the consumers consumption pattern to be tracked on an individual basis. This information may then be used to better define the content that get published in order to match the consumer's interests.







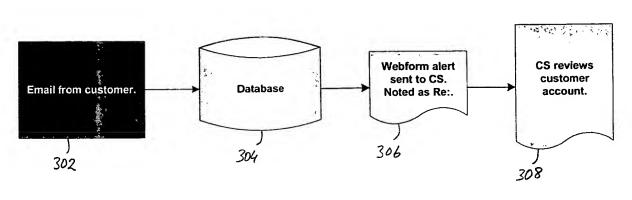




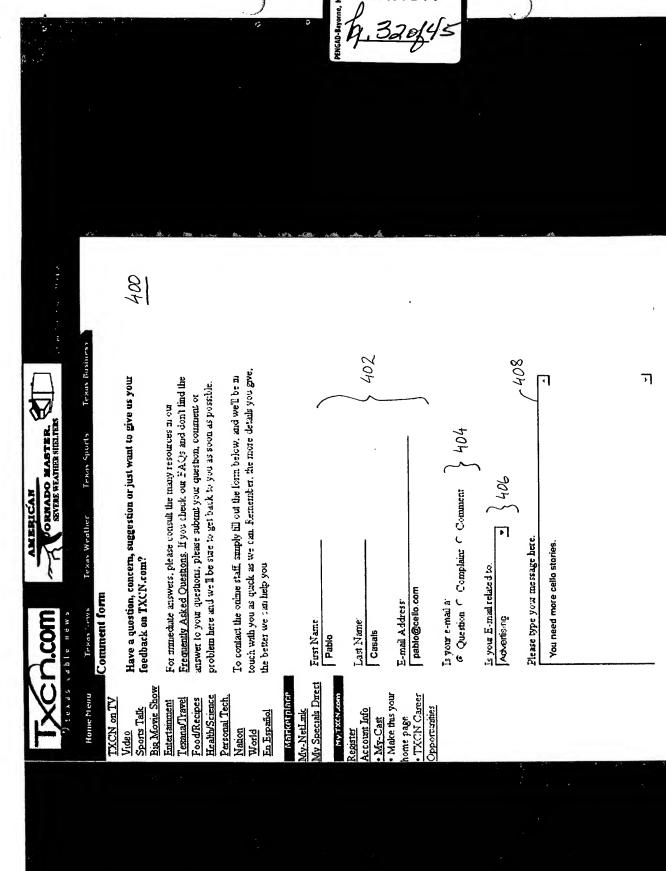
EXHIBIT

931845

300 7



F16. 3



Submit Clear

EXHIBIT PENGAD-Bayonne, N.

Tue 5/7/2002 9:36 AM Tue 5/7/2002 8:34 AM Fone Sync Received 18 <u></u> Prind an Organize We have received your comment and will get back with you shortly. $\mid SOH \mid$ Send/Receive CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE | B New • | B | B X | S Reply S Reply to A|| S Forward Colendar
Contacts
Contacts
Contacts
Contacts
Subject: CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE
Subject: CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE

Dear Pablo,
Dear Pablo,
Subject: CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE
Cc:
Coleman, Tom
Coleman, Tom Annual Meeting of Shareholders Subject Wilson, Tracy bihelpdesk 1 0 7 0 From ~ \ (D Edit Yjew Favorites Iools Actions Help Archive Folders
 Athropia Today - [Mailbo 1 Tasks (2)

Tasks (2)

Decorpose

Decorpose × **₹** Folder List Thbox 1 Sho... ortcuts ek 5...

9 602 7 Gustomer Service NONE (5) testpe belointeractive.com (4) restwivity betointeractive.com vit3 txcn.com. (5) WIE EXCUSOR (5) WWW DE COM (2) Open Tickets

LA 35 of 45

702

Seench Results

5 Gustomer Service

home Seerah New Tieket

Open Cases

18

testpe.belointeractive.com

1

09-APR-2002 15:44 (Chris Wynne) Question selected

Employment

15-APR-2002 15:36 (Jodie Gayton) Comment Theed a rob I'm unemployed

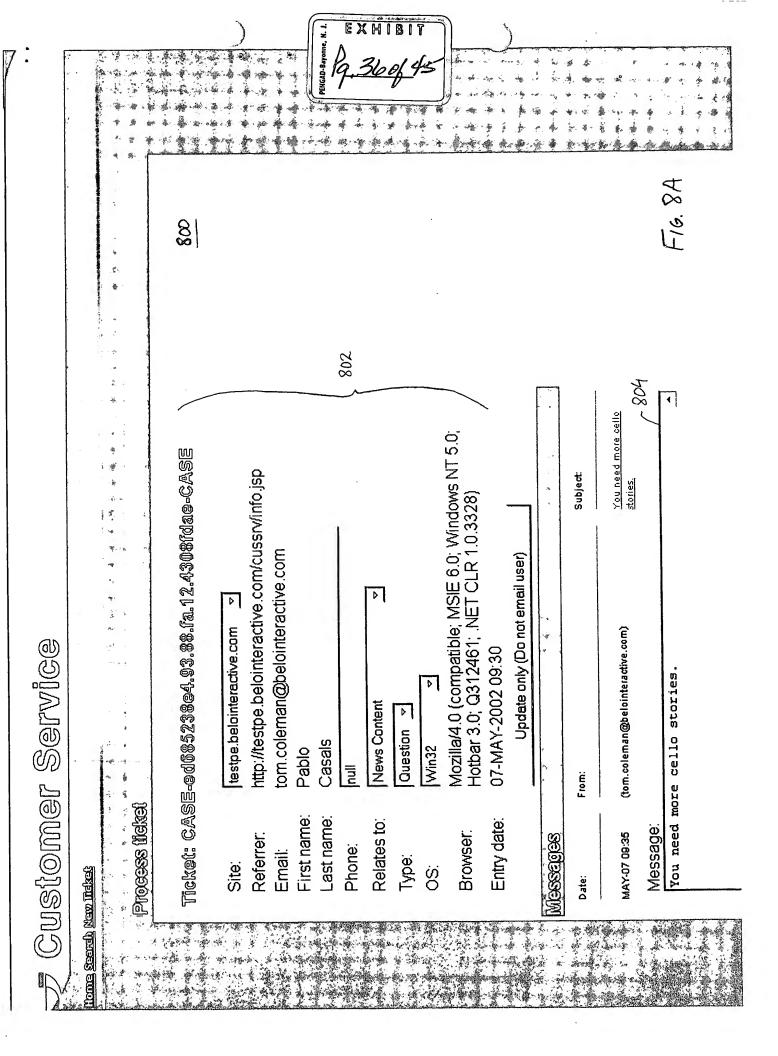
News Content

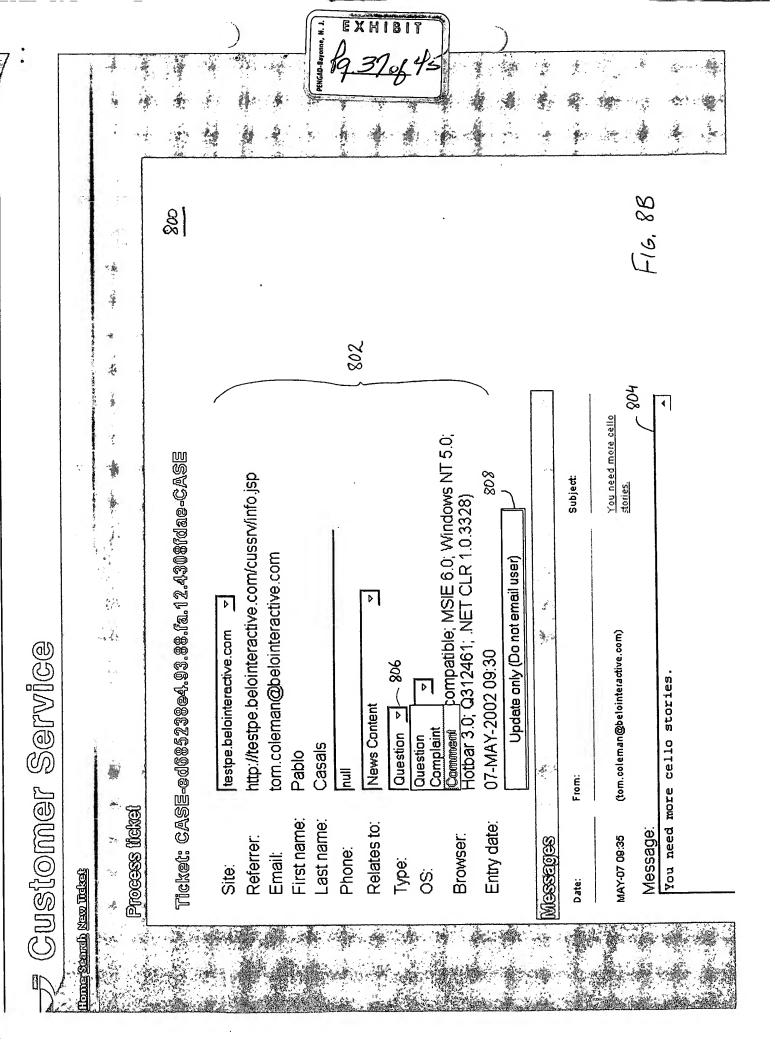
perhibernadus ilads nov do woell 07-MAY-2002 09:30 (Pablo Casals) Question "You need more cello stories. (testin meass) Comment 17-APR-2002 13:52

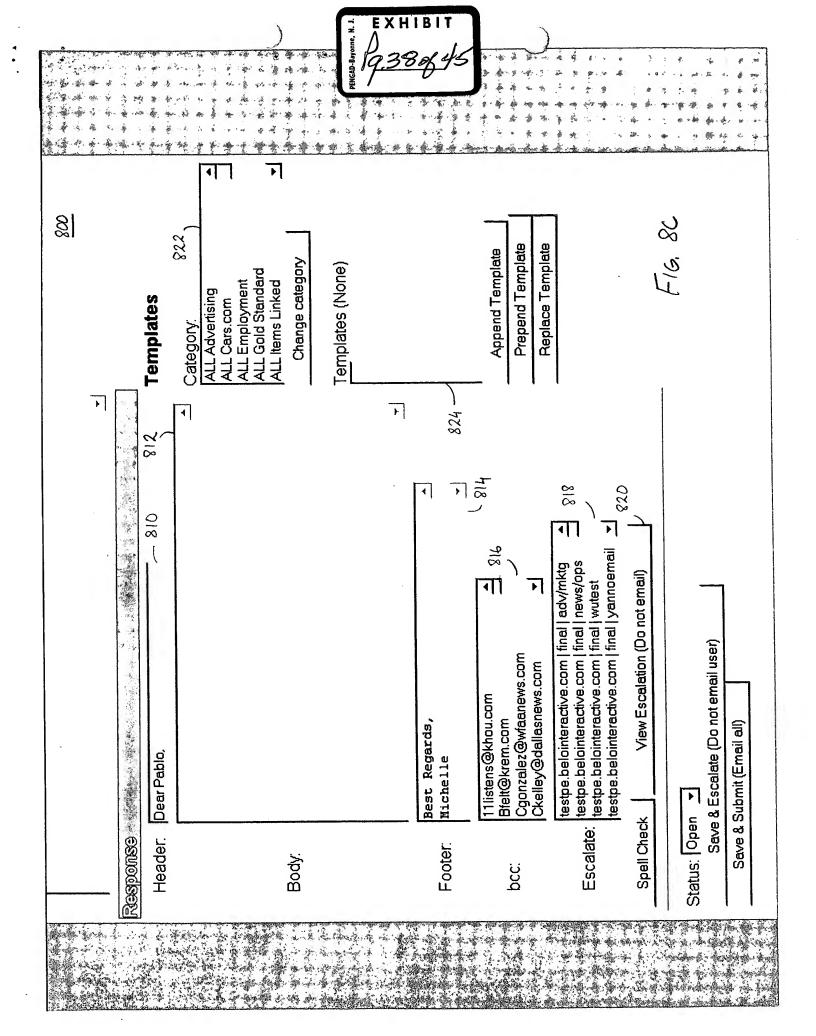
PE font size

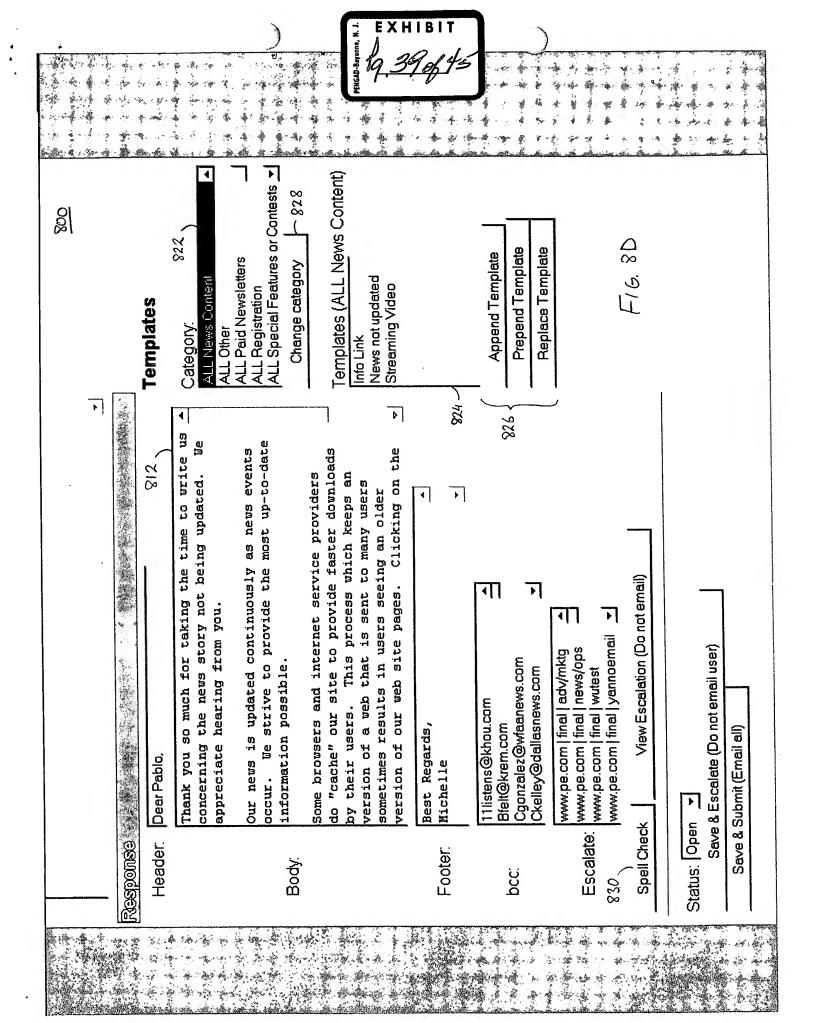
11-APR-2002 11:13 (Jane Doe) Question Trantises the type on the pa

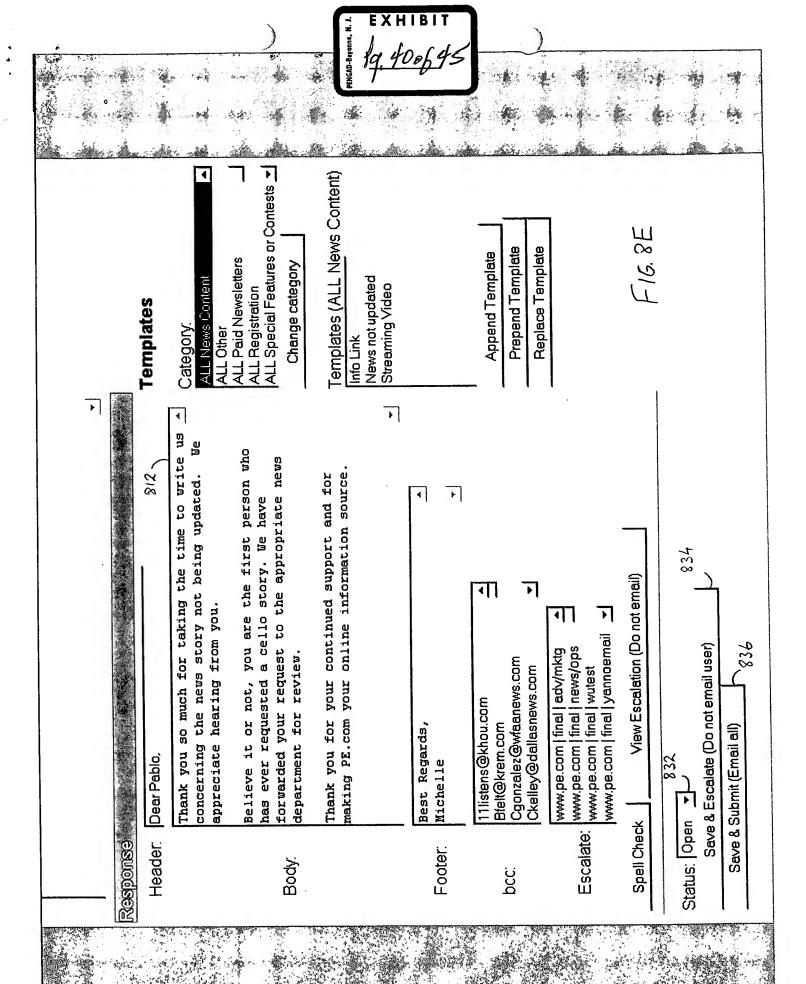
-16,7





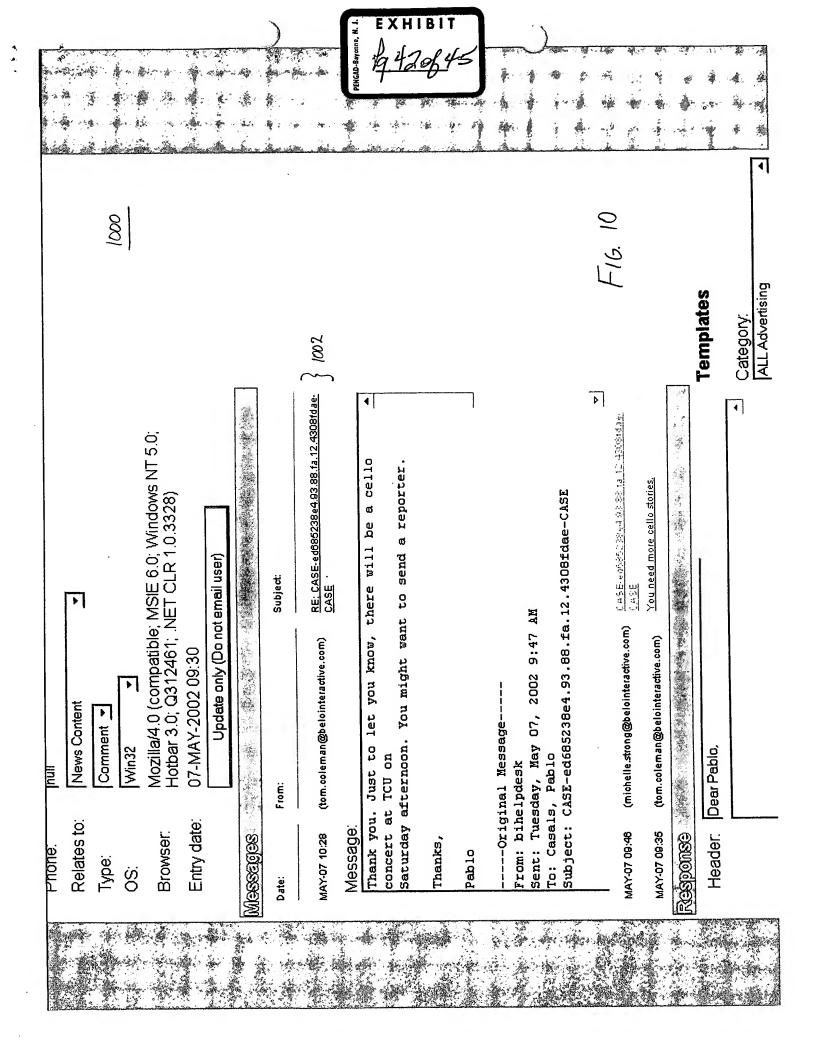






PENGAD-Bayonne, N. J. 19.410945 Tue 5/7/2002 9:47 A Tue 5/7/2002 9:40 AM Thank you so much for taking the time to write us concerning the news story not being updated. 2 R FoneSync Thank you for your continued support and for making PE.com your online information source. Believe it or not, you are the first person who has ever requested a cello story. We have 13 Received 學 Find 智Organize forwarded your request to the appropriate news department for review. ②◆ Reply 《 Reply to A!! ◆② Forward | 12 Send/Regeive CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE To: Coleman, Tom Finished loading the CS system 406 ü Subject: CASE-ed685238e4.93.88.fa.12.4308fdae-CASE 1 902 We appreciate hearing from you. Subject X D Strong, Michelle bihelpdesk Best Regards, → MeM ← From: bihelpdesk x | 1 □ | ♥ | 0 | From Dear Pablo, Michelle 2 × Outlook Today - [Mailbo Ž Edit <u>V</u>iew Fav<u>o</u>rites <u>Iools Actions Help</u> 7 Deleted Items (3 Ç Colendar
Contacts
Deleted Ite
Deleted Ite
Drafts
Journal
Notes
Outbox
PocketMirror ල් F Archive Folders Sent Items Tasks (2) 11.11 **!!** Inbox Folder List 1 . 1 ...oH2 ortcuts 85...

XHIBIT



13 F16. 11 1102 • testpe.belointeractive.com Relates to: ALL-Advertising Question 💌 Open • IE 4 New Ticket: First name: Last name: Type: OS: Browser: Status: Referrer: Phone: Email: Site: Note

Customer Service

Ticket No.

1200

First Name:

Last Name:

Coleman

Email:

1202

Keyword: Relates To: Date: Status:

All Topics

From: JAN [1 | 2001 | 10: [

Search Clear

FIG. 12B 15-APR-2002 15:20 (Tom Coleman) Complaint "There was no score for the Wel 11-APR-2002 15:44 (Thomas Coleman) Question "I entered this for you. 06-MAY-2002 10:20 (Thomas Coleman) Question What's going on? 11-APR-2002 15:09 (Tom Coleman) Question "Testing the system. 09-APR-2002 11:31 (Theo Coleman) Question "akakaka akakak 09-APR-2002 11:14 (Tom Coleman) Question "adfikiasdfki. testwwitv.belointeractive.com testpe.belointeractive.com Closed Cases vit3.txcn.com **News Content** Advertising

7

Gustomer Service

1210

Open Cases